

# IKE BACKS 'UNITED ACTION'

IN WASHINGTON—the battle sways—AT THE FRONT

## The GIs might be sent Suicide troops attack

WASHINGTON, Wednesday.—President Eisenhower declined today to rule out the possibility that American troops may have to be used in South-East Asia—that means Indo-China.

He backed the call made on Monday by Mr. John Foster Dulles for united action to meet the threat of Communist aggression.

Mr. Eisenhower said the Secretary of State's speech must stand by itself. He read it before it was made and agreed with it completely.

Did plans for united action contemplate the use of American troops in Indo-China?

The President said he could not answer.

Each case has its own risks and dangers for the United States.—B.U.P.

HANOI, Wednesday.—Wave on wave of screaming Communist shock-troops have made a new attack on the besieged Indo-China fortress of Dien Bien Phu.

They fought their way into one defence position, but after taking and losing it a dozen times during the night, they were flung out by French troops.

The bitterest battle of the seven-year Indo-China war began when the first wave made suicide leaps into the wire with mines on their chests to blast a path.

Colonel Christian de Castries, commander of Dien Bien Phu—Paris reports that he is to be promoted general—radioed: "Send every plane that can fly."

Express News Service.

### PARIS-BORN FILM ACTRESS FOUND UNCONSCIOUS



FRENCH film actress Corinne Marchand, aged 21, was found unconscious at her Los Angeles home yesterday, police reported. Her doctor said she had taken an overdose of sleeping pills. Miss Marchand was taken to hospital, then sent home.

It was just a stupid kind of accident, she said later. The picture was taken after her recovery.

Paris-born Corinne's films include "On the Riviera" and "Powder River". Her marriage to actor John Bromfield ended last month.

## FAITH We must win it back, says peer TRADE IS THE WAY

By M. S. NUTT

LORD BALFOUR OF INCHRYE warned the House of Commons that Britain is losing its good will and faith of some colonies.

And he blamed GATT—the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade—for the loss of the tobacco, sugar, banana, and citrus fruit industries of the West Indies.

He said the Government is unable to get any real sense into its policy of free trade.

"It is tragic to read in the House of Commons that the Government is calling a meeting to discuss the possibility of raising the tariff on citrus products from the U.S. to 10 per cent."

"We cannot raise tariffs or create new ones because we are pledged by GATT to raise them," he said.

"But, by the Ottawa agreement, we are pledged to allow most Commonwealth products to enter duty free."

"So we are in a cleft stick so long as GATT exists in its present form."

Then he called for Commonwealth talks before the proposed revision of GATT begins in October.

"Decisions of immense importance will have to be reached before the meeting if Britain is not to be tied up for a further period of years with the chains which now bind our economic freedom," he said.

Viscount Swinton, Secretary of State for Commonwealth Relations, then gave this assurance:

"We and the Commonwealth will have to do a lot of work before the review takes place."

He said the Government will not leave it to a consultation in a corridor after the General meeting has begun.

Lord Swinton went on: "I want to talk very frankly about GATT and Imperial Preference."

"We were always opposed to no-preference rule. But the Committee of the Commonwealth hold differing views about it."

"We should do more harm than good by taking isolated measures which would deprive us of every benefit without getting the Commonwealth to move along with us."

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## Engineers and bosses beam at wage rise

By TREVOR EVANS

MR. JACK TANNER and half a dozen other leaders of Britain's 3,000,000 engineering workers walked jauntily away from the headquarters of the engineering employers in Tottenham, Westminster, yesterday afternoon.

And, inside the building, Sir Percy Mills and the other top-ranking spokesmen of the employers were beaming too, though they had just agreed to add £70,000,000 a year to their wages bill.

The argument had dragged on since last summer. The unions demanded an increase of 15 per cent, or 35 in the £. The employers retorted: "Nothing."

A court of inquiry, set up after a whole day's national stoppage and before a ban on overtime and piecework was implemented, suggested five per cent.

The employers reluctantly offered a fraction more than five per cent. The unions replied that was not enough.

And that was the background to yesterday's meeting. The prospects were gloomy.

Mr. Tanner told Sir Percy Mills the unions would accept an increase of 10s. a week.

Hours later, the employers offered to increase their offer by 1s. 2d. to 8s. 6d. a week for skilled men, to 7s. 6d. for the intermediate semi-skilled grades, and by 6d. to 6s. 6d. a week for the unskilled. These new terms represented an increase of about 6 per cent on current rates.

"Well, accept that," said the union chiefs. They will recommend the executives of their 39 unions to approve their decision. The increase will operate from next Monday.

His name gave a new word to the language of the war. "Dawsoning" meant the ruthless elimination of inefficiency by methods that took small account of the rule book.

The second volume of the official history of the wartime R.A.F. is a tale of "Dawsoning" was vital. For the first time we get a real understanding of what Dawson did for us as a chief period in 1941.

Dawson, a good-looking, energetic man, was an engineer specialist who had risen in seven months

## AMERICA COLUMN

From NEWELL ROGERS

### How to lose £45,000 in a day

NEW YORK, Wednesday. GUNARD had bad luck today. It cost the British shipping company 127,500 dollars (£45,500) for nine special trains that might not have been necessary tomorrow.

The trains made the 1,165-mile, 31-hour-each-way run between Halifax and New York carrying 2,300 passengers to and from the Queen Mary, which docked at Halifax on Monday because of the New York dock strike.

This happens just as the strike shows signs of collapsing, after 27 days. Today the ship went back to work. So did warehousemen: so did an increasing number of stevedores in spite of picket lines.

And the strike leaders plan a meeting to call the whole thing off.

To earn 127,500 dollars Gunard has to sell 319 first-class passages to Southampton. It is not clear profit either, of course.

SINGER Mary Garden, the Aberdeen who made her operatic debut 54 years ago, makes her U.S. TV debut on Saturday night. But, at the same time, she will just talk about opera and her career.

A BRITISH film, "Does It Matter What You Think?" will open the weekly free lunch-hour cinema programme in New York Public Library on Fifth Avenue.

ONLY a week or two ago Time magazine, owned by the husband of Ambassador Clare Boothe Luce, said the Journal Bulletin, of Providence, Rhode Island, was "New England's conscience."

The only decent newspaper in New England.

Tonight the Journal Bulletin advised President Eisenhower to recall Mrs. Luce, saying: "The Home post has become one of the most vital of the diplomatic service and Mrs. Luce."

The War Cabinet had been trained by Winston Churchill's suspicions of "frightful mismanagement and futility" in the Middle East Command.

Under the burden of successive failures in Cyrenaica, Greece, and Crete, the R.A.F. maintenance organisation had collapsed. Its services were no longer available.

New aircraft were arriving without guns or radios. Spares were either not arriving or being lost in units hopelessly short of equipment assistants. Then

cannot be considered one of our top-drawer ambassadors. After appointment was an admitted experiment which in the light of current developments might better be continued in some other locale.

ANOTHER tribute today for the girl who has just won an Oscar as the best actress of 1953. Says the New York World-Tribune: "Audrey Hepburn becomes Queen of Movie-dom without a divorce or scandal, without having her torso, the No. 1 topic in the cinema columns, without meeting any Khan, without a phone call from Porfirio Rubirosa."

NEGRO Wesley Wells, who has lived seven years under the shadow of execution (Monday's report), is not to die in the gas chamber next week.

California Supreme Court upheld Governor Knight's reprieve today. Wells, who spends his time reading Shakespeare, was under automatic death sentence for throwing a spittoon at a waiter, injuring him slightly.

Now that law which says a "hater" who commits assault with a deadly weapon shall die is to be the subject of an inquiry.

SNAKE MAN William Haast, of Miami, in hospital after being bitten by a rattlesnake, says Russell viper, keeps a log to help his doctors.

It says: "Every muscle in body aches," eyes inflamed, in throat, more intense."

But now creeping paralysis has stopped him writing. So he dictates.

The hospital says he lives on because he has built up some immunity over the years by injecting himself with measured amounts of cobra venom.

SUPER-SHOPPING centres on the outskirts of great cities grow so big that some are small cities in themselves. They have 100 shops.

Beaverbrook said, "Send Dawson!"

Says this new volume, "Of Dawson's many proposals during the war, none bore the swiftness of better than this. Graham Dawson was a 'live' who, with Beaverbrook's own heart, with a dominating personality and an utter impatience of red tape."

When Dawson arrived in the Middle East in May 1941 there were only some 200 aircraft available for operations in the Western Desert.

By the November offensive of that year there were nearly 600. Dawson's work was the major factor in the improvement.

\* Royal Air Force 1939-1945, Vol. II, The Right Hon. Denis Richards and Hon. Sir G. Saunders, Stationery Office, 13s. 6d.

## THIS IS THE FULL STORY OF THE H-BOMB

FROM PAGE ONE

quantitative lead—that is to say upon our possession of greater numbers of atomic weapons so long as that could be maintained.

There was, however, the alternative of a qualitative lead. If we could make a weapon of greater force—greater than the fission weapons by a degree of magnitude comparable to the difference between fission bombs and conventional bombs.

A theoretical method of accomplishing this was known to our scientists.

The first bomb

In January 1950 the President directed the Atomic Energy Commission to undertake the necessary steps to see if this weapon, variously called the hydrogen bomb, the fusion bomb, and the thermo-nuclear bomb, could in fact be made.

As you know, thanks to the ingenuity of those scientists and engineers who devoted themselves to the project, the feasibility of the fusion reaction was demonstrated and a prototype was tested in Eniwetok in November 1952.

This test produced the largest

man-made explosion ever witnessed to that date, and from that point we moved into refinement of design and other development.

In August of last year the Russians also tested a weapon or device of a yield well beyond the range of regular fission weapons and which derived a part of its force from the fusion of light elements.

There is good reason to believe that they had begun work on this weapon substantially before we did.

The present series of tests has been long in the planning. It is conducted jointly by the Atomic Energy Commission and the Department of Defense.

A task force was established last year in accordance with the procedure successfully followed in preceding tests.

Early this January men and supplies began to move out to the proving grounds for this series. The first shot took place on its scheduled date of March 1, and the second on March 26. Both were successful.

No test is made without a definite purpose and a careful determination that it is directed toward an end result of major importance to our military strength and readiness.

The results which the

scientists had hoped to obtain from these two tests were fully realized, and enormous potential has been added to our military posture by what we have learned.

It should also be noted that the testing of weapons is important likewise in order to be fully aware of the possible future, aggressive ability of an enemy, for we now fully know that we possess no monopoly of capability in this awesome field.

The particles

Now as to this specific test series. The first shot has been variously described as a "devastating," "out of control," and with other exaggerated and mistaken characterizations.

I would not wish to minimize it. It was a stupendous blast, but at no time was the testing out of control.

The misapprehension seems to have arisen due to two facts. First, that the yield was about double that of the calculated estimate—a margin of error not incompatible with a totally new weapon. Second, because of the results of the "fall-out."

When a large explosion occurs within a certain distance of the ground, an amount of earth or water or whatever is beneath the centre of the

explosion is sucked up into the air. The heavy particles cool quickly. The lighter ones are borne away in the direction of the wind until they settle out.

If the explosion is a nuclear one, the particles which would be radioactive as are the vapourized parts of the weapon itself.

For this reason the Atomic Energy Commission has conducted its tests in a remote area so that the fall-out would occur in the ocean where it would be quickly dissipated both by dilution and by the rapid decay of most of the radioactivity, which is of short duration.

The Marshall Islands were selected for the site of the first large-scale tests—Operation Crossroads—for reasons which I shall show you.

'Away' winds

The Marshall Islands during the months of February, March, and April are usually visited by winds which would blow away from any inhabited atolls.

The two atolls of Bikini and Eniwetok are situated on the base for these operations.

Each of these atolls is a large necklace of coral reef surrounding two or three hundred square miles in area, and at various points on the reef like beads on a string appear a number of little islands, some a few score acres in extent—others no more than sandspits. It is these small, uninhabited, treeless sand islets which are used for the experiments.

As a matter of fact, the task force dredged up enough sand and coral to build one of these so-called islands to have it where it was wanted most advantageously for shot Number One.

The impression that an entire atoll or even large islands have been destroyed in these tests is erroneous. It would be more accurate to say a large sandspit or reef.

Before the shot takes place, there is a careful survey of the winds at all elevations, and many thousands of feet. This survey is conducted by weather stations on islands at widely separated points.

Cloud sheared

Contrary to general belief, winds do not blow in only one direction at a given time and place. The winds at heights above the earth's surface are found to be blowing frequently in opposite directions and at greatly varying speeds.

An atomic cloud is therefore sheared by these winds as it rises through them.

The meteorologists attempt to forecast the wind direction for the optimum condition and the task force commander thereupon decides on the basis of the weather reports, when the test shall be made.

The weather forecast is necessarily long-range because a warning area must be searched for shipping and the search, which is carried out both visually and by radar and navy planes, requires a day or more to complete.

The "warning area" is an area surrounding the proving grounds within which it is determined that a hazard to shipping or aviation exists. We have established many such areas as have other Governments.

We have established a total of 447 such areas. This particular warning area was first established in 1947.

The United Nations were advised and appropriate notices were carried then, and subsequently, in marine and air navigation manuals.

The accidents

Despite such notices there are many instances where accidents or near accidents have resulted from inadvertent crossings in such warning areas. The very size of them makes it impossible to fence or police them.

For the purpose of shot Number One, the meteorologists had predicted a wind condition which should have carried the fall-out to the north of the group of small atolls lying to the east of Bikini.

The survey aircraft carefully searched the area and reported no shipping.

The shot was fired.

The wind failed to follow the predictions but shifted south of that line and the little islands of Rongelap, Rongerik, and Uterik were in the path of the fall-out.

A Japanese fishing trawler, the Fortunate Dragon, appears to have been missed by the search but, based on a statement attributed to her skipper, to the effect that he saw the flash of the explosion and heard the concussion, it is believed that it must have been well within the danger area.

The 23 crew members on the ship, 28 American personnel

manning weather stations on the atolls, and the 236 natives on these islands were therefore within the area of the fall-out.

The supposition that the actual blast of the bomb extended over such enormous areas is of course entirely incorrect.

The task force commander ordered the evacuation of all the people from these islands. They were taken to Kwajalein, where we maintained a naval establishment and there they received continuous and competent medical supervision.

Inspection sought

I visited them there last week. Since that time, it has been determined that the weather personnel could be returned to duty, still being kept at Kwajalein for the benefit of further observation. None of the 28 weather personnel has been hurt.

The 236 natives also appear to me to be well and happy. The exceptions were two sick cases having no connection with the test.

The situation with respect to the 23 Japanese fishermen is less certain due to the fact that after every test we have been permitted by the Japanese authorities to make a proper clinical examination.

It is interesting to note, however, that the reports which have recently come through to us indicate that the blood count of these men is comparable to that of our weather station personnel.

Money ready

Skin lesions observed are thought to be due to the chemical activity of the converted material in the coral reefs, rather than to radioactivity, since these lesions are said to be already healing.

With respect to the stories concerning widespread contamination of tuna and other fish as the result of the tests, the facts do not confirm them. The only contaminated fish discovered were those in the open hold of the Japanese trawler.

I should perhaps note that in the waters around Bikini and Eniwetok at certain seasons of the year almost all fish caught are normally poisonous as a result of feeding on certain seasonally prevalent micro-organisms, and the natives and our task force personnel do not eat them at such times.

In the matter of indemnifying the Japanese, our Government has informed the Japanese Government that it is prepared to agree to reimbursement for such financial assistance as the Japanese Government and our embassy in Tokyo, jointly, may find necessary as an interim measure.

And in the U.S.

With respect to the apprehension that fall-out radioactivity would move toward Japan, the Japanese Government can state that any radioactivity falling into the test area would become harmless within a few miles after being picked up by these currents, which move slowly (less than one mile an hour) and would be completely undetectable within 500 miles or less.

With respect to a story which received some currency last week to the effect that there is danger of a fall-out of radioactive material in the United States, it should be noted that the tests have been carried out in the Pacific and the Russian tests as well, there is a small increase in natural "background" radiation in some localities within the continental United States.

But, currently, it is less than that observed after some of the previous continental and overseas tests and far below the levels which could be harmful in any way to human beings, animals or crops.

It will decrease rapidly after the test and the radiation level has returned approximately to the normal background.

Irresponsible

A recent comment which I have been shown has suggested that the incident involving the fall-out on inhabited areas was actually a planned part of the operation.

I do not wish to comment on this other than to characterize it as utterly false, irresponsible, and gravely unjust to the men engaged in this patriotic service.

Finally, I would say that one important result of these hydrogen bomb developments has been the enhancement of our military capability to the point where we should soon be more free to increase our emphasis on the peaceful uses of atomic power—at home and abroad.

It will be a tremendous satisfaction to those who have participated in this programme that it has hastened that day.

## He gave RAF a word—DAWSONISING

Express Staff Reporter

ON the record of high achievement in the years of struggle in the RAF, today the story of Graham Dawson, who died in an air accident at the end of the war.

His name gave a new word to the language of the war. "Dawsoning" meant the ruthless elimination of inefficiency by methods that took small account of the rule book.

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Dawson, a good-looking, energetic man, was an engineer specialist who had risen in seven months

from group captain to air vice-marshal.

He was at the Ministry of Aircraft Production when Minister Lord Beaverbrook suggested he should go to Egypt to find out the true state of things.

The War Cabinet had been trained by Winston Churchill's suspicions of "frightful mismanagement and futility" in the Middle East Command.

Under the burden of successive failures in Cyrenaica, Greece, and Crete, the R.A.F. maintenance organisation had collapsed. Its services were no longer available.

New aircraft were arriving without guns or radios. Spares were either not arriving or being lost in units hopelessly short of equipment assistants. Then

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